

Vietnam bogged down

NEW DELHI (R) — French External Relations Minister Claude Cheysson said Monday Vietnamese troops were bogged down in Kampuchea and he did not see how Hanoi could withdraw them. "They are in a trench and the question is how do they leave?" he said after the first official visit to Vietnam by a French foreign minister since Hanoi invaded Kampuchea in December 1978. He told reporters he saw no sign of progress over Kampuchea, nor of a Vietnamese withdrawal. He stopped over in Delhi on his way to Pakistan after talks earlier Monday with Vietnamese Prime Minister Pham Van Dong. He said he conferred with Indian Foreign Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao on the recent non-aligned summit, Indochina, the Middle East, the Gulf war, and the Soviet Union.

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Bahraini minister meets Pym

LONDON (R) — Bahraini Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammad Ibn Mubarak Al Khalifa Monday held talks with British Foreign Secretary Francis Pym. A Foreign Office spokesman said they had a half-hour general discussion. Sheikh Mohammad stopped off in London with the Bahraini defence minister and heir apparent, Sheikh Hamed Ibn Isa Al Khalifa. They are on their way to an official visit to the United States.

Bangladesh to attend Al Quds committee meeting in Rabat

DHAKA (R) — Bangladesh Foreign Minister Shamsud Doha will fly to Rabat, Morocco, next Sunday for a two-day meeting of the Al Quds Committee, an Islamic body trying to end Israeli occupation of Jerusalem. A foreign office spokesman said Monday Mr. Doha would lead a three-man team at the meeting, to be presided over by Morocco's King Hassan.

Bomb defused in Nicosia

NICOSIA (R) — A bomb disposal expert was injured when he tried to defuse an explosive device found outside an Arab publishing house in Nicosia, police said Monday. The bomb was planted beside the car of Maria Hadjileontas, a niece of the late Archbishop Makarios, on Saturday night, but appeared to be aimed at the nearby office of a pro-Libyan magazine, Al Moukif Al Arabi, a senior police officer told Reuters.

Warsaw Pact to meet in April

MOSCOW (R) — Foreign ministers of the Warsaw Pact will meet in Prague during the first half of April, the Soviet news agency TASS said Monday. It will be the first meeting of Warsaw Pact foreign ministers since Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev died last November.

Assad meets PNC speaker

DAMASCUS (R) — Syrian President Hafez Al Assad conferred Saturday night with Khaled Al Faham, speaker of the Palestine National Council (PNC), the official Syrian news agency SANA reported. The meeting, which lasted two-and-a-half hours, was the first between the Syrian head of state and a senior Palestinian official for over three months.

Israeli opposition to reject honours for Lebanon invasion

TEL AVIV (R) — Members of Israel's opposition Labour Party said Monday they would refuse military honours for Israel's invasion of Lebanon as a protest against the war, a party official said. A party group made up of young Labour members said they would reject a military ribbon, to be granted to all soldiers who took part in the campaign, because they believed the war was unnecessary. The group said it did not believe the honours should be granted while Israeli soldiers are still bogged down in Lebanon.

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W. Bank protests continue as Israel fails to explain mass poisoning in schools

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Violent demonstrations continued in the Israeli-occupied West Bank as Israeli officials reported Monday they had found no evidence to explain the poisoning of hundreds of Palestinian schoolgirls over the weekend.

Since Friday, more than 300 teenage students from six girls' schools in Jenin and Arabe have been taken to hospital with headaches, dizziness, nausea and, in some cases, temporary blindness.

Three of the poisoned girls were reported to be in serious condition. Many of the others were suffering from hysteria and were released after treatment, hospital staff said.

Medical and police teams investigating the mystery announced there was yet no proof of poisoning and further laboratory tests were needed.

In Nablus, the largest West Bank city, stone-throwing crowds took to the streets and Israeli occupation authorities imposed a curfew on the Casbah (market).

There were violent demonstrations also in Jenin, the small town where many of the sick schoolgirls live.

Officials also dismissed a theory that chemicals were sprayed on classroom curtains.

So far, laboratory tests had found no harmful chemical residues in any of the sick students, the officials said.

All the schools affected have been in the north of the West Bank.

Austrian, PLO discuss prisoner swap

DAMASCUS (R) — An envoy from Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky met Palestinian officials here Monday to discuss a proposed exchange of prisoners between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), an official Palestinian source said.

The source said the Palestinians presented the envoy, Mr. Kreisky's secretary Herbert Amry, with PLO conditions for releasing the eight Israeli soldiers it captured in central Lebanon last September.

The main conditions were that Israel should recognise its PLO captives as prisoners of war, the source added, and should admit holding 300 Palestinian fighters

'Eviction attempt'

The Palestinian news agency WAFA said Palestinian national institutions, meeting in Jenin, had cabled international bodies saying that girls' schools there had been attacked with nerve gas "in an attempt to force the Palestinian people in the West Bank to leave their land."

They said the attacks were carried out by organised groups who were allowed freedom of movement by the Israeli occupation authorities. WAFA said in a Damascus-dated report received in Nicosia.

It said telegrams were sent to the United Nations, the International Committee of Red Cross, the U.N. Committee for Human Rights, the World Health Organisation and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO).

Another WAFA report said 480 Palestinian girls had been taken to hospital after six secondary schools in the Jenin area were systematically sprayed with a poisonous gas which incapacitates everyone within the affected area.

It said Israeli elements had attempted to "murder en masse" the schoolgirls.

WAFA linked the affair with a statement two weeks ago by Israeli Defence Minister Moshe Arens that Israeli occupation authorities would use new methods to quell Palestinian student demonstrations on the West Bank.

military operation to free them.

Six of the prisoners are being held by the mainstream PLO group Fatah and the other two by the radical pro-Libyan Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC).

Mr. Amry, who arrived in Damascus Sunday, was expected to meet PFLP-GC leader Ahmad Jibril Tuesday, Palestinian sources said.

Negotiations on a prisoner exchange have been going on for some months through Chancellor Kreisky and the Red Cross, but appear to have achieved little progress so far.

Greens enter Bundestag, page 8

New W. German Bundestag opens today

BONN (R) — West Germany's freshly-elected Bundestag (lower house) opens Tuesday with Chancellor Helmut Kohl pledged to continue a "coalition of the centre" following his recent triumph in the polls.

The Christian Democrat (CDU) chancellor has so far successfully outflanked controversial Bavarian leader Franz Josef Strauss, head of the Christian Social Union (CSU), who is trying to impose his right-wing policies on Mr. Kohl within the coalition.

After Mr. Kohl refused to let him have any of the three cabinet posts he wanted—foreign affairs, finance or economics—Mr. Strauss, 67, decided not to sit in the cabinet at all.

The 34 seats of their liberal FDP coalition partner give the government an overall majority of

58 over the Social Democrats (SPD) and radical "Greens".

This is actually three less than the government majority in the last Bundestag because of the slump of the FDP, which lost 19 seats, and the arrival of the Greens who are represented for the first time in parliament with 27 deputies.

There are no urgent domestic or foreign issues facing the first meeting of the Bundestag, which will be largely taken up with formalities, including the election of the chancellor, before the Easter recess.

Greens enter Bundestag, page 8

Afro-Spanish ties to top Gonzalez' Rabat talks

RABAT (R) — Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez arrived Monday for a two-day official visit to Morocco, part of what diplomats see as a drive by Madrid to boost relations with the whole of North Africa.

Mr. Gonzalez was due to confer later Monday with Moroccan Prime Minister Maati Bouabid, who met him on arrival, and to be received by King Hassan in Fez Tuesday.

Premier Bouabid said in an interview published in the Moroccan press that there was no precise agenda for his talks with Mr. Gonzalez but there would be no "taboo subjects."

In an interview with the Moroccan news agency MAP, Mr. Gonzalez said the time had come for Spain and Spain to avoid

"confrontation and mutual suspicion" and to resist "the temptation to discuss little problems."

Mr. Gonzalez said Madrid had "great hopes" that the application of U.N. and Organisation of African Unity (OAU) resolutions for self-determination would bring peace in the Western Sahara. Polisario nationalists, guerrillas have been fighting Moroccan control there for seven years, since Spain withdrew from its former colony.

Diplomats in Madrid said Mr. Gonzalez's visit should help smooth sensitivity over the Spanish enclaves of Ceuta and Melilla, surrounded by present day Morocco.

The Rabat daily *L'Opinion*, published by the Istiqlal Party of Foreign Minister Mohammad Boucetta, said in an editorial that Spain was "called upon to li-



Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem (right) Monday confers with Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Political Department head Farouk Kadoumi (centre) and PLO Executive Committee member Yasser Abd Rabbo (Petra photo)

Qasem confers with Kaddoumi

AMMAN (J.T.) — Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem conferred in his office Monday with Farouk Kaddoumi, head of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Political Department.

Mr. Qasem and Mr. Kaddoumi made a "comprehensive review of the current Arab situation and

efforts being made to end the Israeli occupation of Arab territories," the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, said.

Also present during the meeting was Yasser Abd Rabbo, member of the PLO Executive Committee.

Arafat arrives in Iraq

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Yasir Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), arrived in Iraq Monday from Saudi Arabia where he held talks with King Fahd on efforts to secure peace in the Middle East.

The Iraqi News Agency, which announced Mr. Arafat's visit to Baghdad, did not say what subjects he would discuss with Iraqi leaders.

Mr. Arafat, who was expected to arrive in Amman Monday, was reported by the Saudi Press Agency to have delayed his visit to Jordan in view of His Majesty King Hussein's busy schedule with a state visit by Sultan Qaboos Ibn Sa'id of Oman who arrives in Amman Tuesday on a three-day visit.

Mr. Arafat described his discussions with King Fahd as important and said they covered the work of an Arab League mission which was set up to promote an Arab Middle East peace plan.

They did not say whether the problems revolved around re-endeavouring Lebanon. Maj. Saad Haddad, whose future Israeli officials have pinpointed as the main stumbling block in the Lebanese-Israel withdrawal negotiations.

For the past five years Israel has supported Maj. Haddad's border militia as a buffer against Palestinian commandos and now wants him and his men to be left in charge of southern Lebanon as a condition for Israeli withdrawal.

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The sources said Mr. Haddad had some more proposals which might bridge the differences, and was consulting his government on them.

The U.S. envoy was scheduled to have further talks with Lebanese leaders Tuesday.

Gandhi tours drought area

NEW DELHI (R) — Prime Minister Indira Gandhi Monday made an inspection flight to the parched areas of Tamil Nadu, one of four southern states hit by a severe drought, the Press Trust of India reported.

Her visit to the state follows opposition demands in parliament on Friday for the government to rush food supplies to the drought-stricken states.

The Iraqi News Agency (INA) said President Saddam Hussein confirmed during the talks Iraq's "unwavering policy" of trying to reach a lasting and just solution to the Gulf war with Iran.

Mr. Haddad arrived in Baghdad from Kuwait Sunday night as part of a four-nation Middle East tour which will also take him to Jordan and Lebanon.

The government has had to ferry water by road tanker to dry

Habib back in Beirut

BEIRUT (R) — U.S. special Middle East envoy Philip Habib Monday relayed to Lebanese President Amin Gemayel Israel's latest position, on withdrawing its troops from Lebanon, but ministerial sources said problems remained.

Lebanese ministerial sources said that the differences were over detailed points and their application.

They said Lebanon had now offered all that it could on "security arrangements" which Israel wants set up in southern Lebanon if it is to withdraw its forces which invaded the country last June.

They did not say whether the problems revolved around re-endeavouring Lebanon. Maj. Saad Haddad, whose future Israeli officials have pinpointed as the main stumbling block in the Lebanese-Israel withdrawal negotiations.

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U.N. chief, Andropov discuss Afghanistan

MOSCOW (R) — United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar had talks with Soviet Communist Party leader Yuri Andropov Monday on ways to further a solution to the Afghanistan problem, the official TASS news agency said.

Considerable attention was paid to matters of eliminating existing seats of tension in various areas of the world," TASS said, adding that these included the Middle East and the situation around Afghanistan.

Western diplomats said one of the main purposes of Mr. Perez de Cuellar's visit to Moscow was to discuss Afghanistan and although they foresaw no substantial change in Moscow's position they expected Mr. Andropov to make some minor concessions.

TASS gave no details of Monday's talks in the Kremlin, the first meeting between the two men since the funeral of President Leonid Brezhnev last November.

The agency said the conversation touched upon key international problems and the role of the United Nations in solving them.

Mr. Perez de Cuellar's special envoy, Diego Corcovez, is due to resume efforts in two weeks to achieve a withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan, together with international guarantees of non-interference and the repatriation of Afghan refugees in Iran and Pakistan.

President Reagan said that in view of the stalemate at the talks he had ordered a review of the

U.S. position.

This review had now been completed and, before finalising it, the United States wanted to know the allies' view on the issue, the sources quoted President Reagan as saying.

President Reagan said that under the proposed interim solution NATO heads of government, President Reagan said he preferred not to spell out compromise numbers at this time to avoid a preemptive Soviet response during the forthcoming recess at the Geneva arms control talks.

President Reagan said he saw his planned proposal as an interim step towards the total elimination of medium-range missiles by the year 1985 if Moscow accepted cutting its arsenal to an agreed level of warheads, the sources added.

This confirmed reports that Mr. Reagan was considering a "build up, build down" formula that would allow the United States to deploy missiles up to the agreed ceiling, while the Soviet Union gradually dismantled existing weapons in excess of that level, the sources said.

FEATURES

Britain seeks support for nuclear weapons

By Stephen Powell
Reuter

GREENHAM COMMON, England — The British government, anxious to win a propaganda war against opponents of nuclear weapons, this week organised the first visit by journalists into a European base destined to be home to the U.S. cruise missile.

Representatives of the world's press tramped through Greenham Common Air Base in southern England to see work in progress on six sturdy shelters, while at the gates a women's peace camp keeps up a protest vigil.

The shelters will house 24 launch vehicles designed to fire the 96 missiles due to be based here starting in December unless the United States and the Soviet Union reach agreement in arms limitation talks.

The British government organised the trip to soothe the public

fears about the new missile. Recent opinion polls have shown that most Britons oppose the introduction of cruise and the peace movement says it is winning more supporters with each passing week.

The Greenham Common site, protected by a double fence of barbed wire, is the base of the U.S. Air Force 501st tactical missile wing and Britain's most controversial construction site.

Just outside the gates a women's peace camp continues to thrive despite legal moves by the local authority of the area to send the women packing.

Work started here in November 1981 and the missile site is now an austere landscape of cranes, concrete, steel and mud. Officials said the first shelter would be ready on schedule in June and government sources said the first flight of 16 missiles could arrive any time after that.

Each shelter, measuring 50 metres by 15 metres is topped with a five metre thick roof of sand and reinforced concrete. They are sealed with hydraulically-operated 75 ton doors which are let down like a drawbridge.

The first shelter, slightly bigger than the rest, contains accommodation quarters for 12 men — a unit called "quick reaction alert" to respond briskly to a nuclear alert.

In the event of nuclear war alert, the launch vehicles will carry the missiles into the neighbouring countryside.

When fully manned the base will have 2,200 U.S. military personnel accompanied by 2,700 family members.

There will be a mixed security force composed of Britons and Americans.

Five West European countries are due to take a total of 572 of the U.S. cruise and Pershing land-

based missiles.

Britain is due to have a total of 160 cruise missiles by the mid-1980s unless Washington and Moscow can agree to limit the number of land-based medium-range missiles in Europe. The other British base will be Molton in eastern England.

The British government's action in allowing journalists into Greenham Common contrasts sharply with the tactics of other NATO countries.

In West Germany, where the debate has been at its fiercest, the government has not even revealed where its 96 Cruise and 108 Pershing missiles will be stationed.

As the moment of deployment grows nearer, both the Conservative government and the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND), Britain's leading anti-nuclear movement, are stepping up their attempts to win over public opinion.

Greenies may succeed to preserve natural sites

By Brian Timms
Reuter

SYDNEY — Conservationists have called off their campaign against a hydro-electric project in one of Australia's most beautiful areas, confident that the new Labour government will win the battle for them.

More than 1,000 conservationists or Greenies have been arrested trying to disrupt work on the dam in a remote wilderness region of Tasmania, an island off southern Australia.

The dam would flood a rain forest, rare plants and caves which housed aborigines 20,000 years ago.

But the Greenies believe a saviour has arrived in the form of new Prime Minister Bob Hawke, whose Labour Party won the federal election in Australia.

In his first speech after the election Mr. Hawke vowed to stop the hydro-electric scheme, preferably by negotiation but by legal action if necessary.

Tasmania's state government has dug in for a long fight, declaring that it will do everything in its power to maintain the rights to build the dam.

Mr. Hawke has stepped in where the previous government of Conservative Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser said it could not treat for constitutional reasons.

Tasmanian State Premier Robin Gray said: "Mr. Hawke has indicated that the dam will not go ahead. I say to you quite firmly that it will proceed."

He devised the dam project to generate cheap electricity and attract industry to Tasmania, where nearly 12 per cent of the population is unemployed.

But last year the dam site was designated an area of outstanding

natural beauty by the world heritage commission, prompting conservationists to step up their campaign. They stood in front of bulldozers, camped among equipment and sailed the valley's rivers in flotillas of yellow dinghies.

The \$100 million dollar (A425 million) scheme is expected to take a further eight years to complete but already a main access road has nearly reached the site.

Mr. Hawke is trying to stop the work pending negotiations or recourse to the high court.

Mr. Gray says the dam will flood only two per cent of the wilderness and that the priceless artifacts can be removed from the caves. He is supported by most Tasmanians, anxious for more jobs and upset by the protesters who have flocked to the tranquil state.

While the mainland states swing towards Labour in the federal election, Tasmanians alone gave most support to the Conservative Party.

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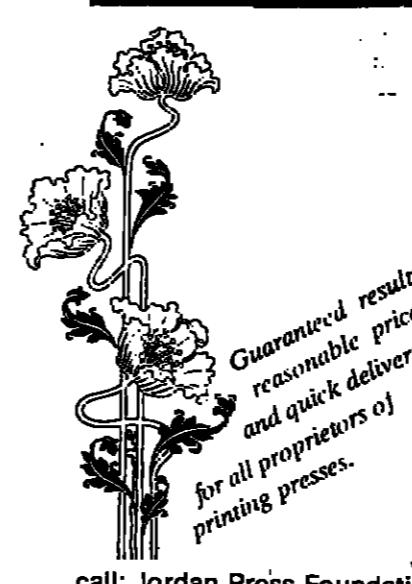


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JORDAN NEWS

Stock exchange talks help capital, information transfer

By Aiffah A. Kaloti
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The third annual meeting of the Union of Arab Stock Exchanges, which was opened Saturday in Amman by Finance Minister Salem Masa'deh, ended Monday.

"The objective of the annual meeting is to let Arab investors have access to and knowledge of all the exchanges throughout the Arab World, while also aiming to facilitate a free interflow of capital between the constituent Arab countries, an observer who attended the three-day meeting said.

Mr. Hassan Traboulsi, the representative of the Association of Arab Banks, told the Jordan Times that the union's main objective is to develop and upgrade the present economic state of the Arab countries.

"There is vast potential in many Arab countries that could end up producing miracles; the only factor missing being private capital which, though does exist, elsewhere in the Arab World," he said.

The membership of the Union of Arab Stock Exchanges will be enlarged "as soon as the other Arab countries' stock exchanges are established," he said.

The union at present comprises of five Arab countries, including Sudan which has been recently admitted, while Kuwait is expected to join in the near future. "The five Arab stock exchanges which participated in the meeting were the Amman, Tunisian, Beirut, Moroccan and Sudanese stock exchanges," he said.

Mr. Traboulsi stated that the meeting was also attended by two official observers.

Firstly, the Arab Monetary Fund, which is based in Abu Dhabi, "acts as the monetary authority for all Arab Central Banks," he explained. And secondly the Association of Arab Banks "which includes most of the Arab banks in the Arab World," he said.

He said that many Arab brokers working in the different Arab stock exchanges also attended the meeting.

Commenting on the meeting, Mr. Traboulsi said that it was a big

success due to a number of factors. The main one was undoubtedly the decision of the Sudan stock exchange to join the union "the enlarged membership of which will add to the mutual power of both," he said.

He added that the Bahraini and UAE delegations, who also attended the meeting, are now considering establishing stock exchanges in their countries.

Another factor which added to the success of the meeting, he said, was the many constructive decisions and measures taken towards establishing real collaboration among the members.

These in particular included the exchange of printed material related to stock exchange laws and procedures, and the arrangement of bilateral visits between members," he said.

The meeting also decided to produce pamphlets and brochures describing the role and function of stock exchanges in the Arab World, and outline the various investment opportunities that are available to Arab investors.

Mr. Traboulsi said that he will brief the Association of Arab Banks on the details of the conference. In addition he will also recommend that the association support the union in all possible ways. "The association can provide necessary expertise and give advice if required," he said.

Mr. Traboulsi pointed out that Jordan has played a central role in the establishment, consolidation and growth of the union. "I hope that the Jordanian government, represented by Amman Financial Market in the personage of Dr. Hisham Sabbagh, will continue to play such a vital role," he said.

"Furthermore," he went on to say, "I have noticed that the Arab League and the Arab Monetary Fund also played an important role in making the meeting a big success."

He then announced that Lebanon has offered both the premises and facilities necessary for the union to establish a head office in Beirut.

Mr. Traboulsi finished by saying that the next meeting will be held in Beirut in early October this year.

Momani gives boost to public services in Mafraq district

MAFRAQ (Petra) — Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Hassan Al Momani opened here Monday the fourth annual book exhibition, organised by the Mafraq municipality, at the end of his tour of the Mafraq district.

During the tour, Mr. Momani met the heads of municipal and village councils and visited Al Dhaili and Al Khalidiyah municipalities.

In his speech which opened the exhibition, Mr. Momani asserted

the significance of the role of the municipalities and village councils in providing and modernising public services and raising the standard of living in both cities and villages.

Mr. Momani called for the establishment of public and children's parks and said that the ministry will also continue to pay special attention to the shortage of libraries. He said the number of libraries opened last year is almost equal to the total number of libraries opened in the whole of the last 30 years.

In his meeting with the heads of the municipalities and village councils, a decision was made to organise a training course for the municipal and village council workers in charge of water. The minister called on these councils to draw up development plans for their areas and urged them to continue their cooperation in the field of joint services.

Mr. Momani decided to loan Al Dhaili municipality JD 50,000 to construct new school buildings and to improve services in both Al Dhaili and Al Khalidiyah.

Badran urges measures to ensure accountability of funds

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Mudar Badran declared Monday that the government is concerned about public honesty, the prevention of the misuse of power, combating all forms of corruption, and the proper application of the law.

He said the government has been anxious to improve the conditions of the civil service in terms of raising standards of efficiency, productivity and overall performance.

Addressing the weekly session of the National Consultative Council (NCC) chaired by NCC Speaker Suleiman Arar, Mr. Badran said the responsibility of combating corruption and mismanagement is not solely the province of the government, but is also an obligation of the whole community.

The concept of responsibility here does not stop at the limit of reform the correction of mistakes, but goes beyond that to include firstly process of creating the good citizen and the good, and secondly the strong and bountiful society, which is capable of defending itself, its gains and achievements," he said.

The prime minister was speaking in response to recommendations from the NCC's administrative and financial committee relating to the Audit Bureau's 1980 and 1981 reports. He also addressed his remarks in light of contributions made on this subject by members of the NCC.

Audit Bureau

Mr. Badran then thanked the Audit Bureau for the efforts it had made in checking and auditing all official papers of the state and its institutions, and for the two reports the bureau had submitted, detailing all the minor and major violations committed.

The Audit Bureau is a government department charged with the responsibility of scrutinising the financial transactions of all other government departments.

Mr. Badran called on all employees of the Audit Bureau to be even more comprehensive in paying attention to every minute detail as far as financial affairs are concerned.

concerned. He said the bureau's annual report should not be restricted to generalised remarks and the misdemeanours which involve large sums of money. He said that this is important because it enables the NCC to, as a result of studying and debating the report, arrive at well founded conclusions.

The prime minister said the government has been making a meticulous study of the Audit Bureau's reports, and the major violations and issues contained in them. The cabinet discussed this subject at more than one meeting, and even requested further explanations from the Audit Bureau. He said. The cabinet subsequently instructed all government departments to cooperate with the bureau so that the points raised by it could be answered and clarified, thus answering all outstanding questions.

Speaking about the spending of public funds, Mr. Badran said the cabinet has been eager to see these funds spent on plans and projects which best achieve the goals of the state. Consequently, in case of conflict between the bureau and individual departments, the cabinet will make the final decision with the law being the only point of reference involved, he said.

Modernisation of laws

Mr. Badran said the government is also serious about modernising laws and regulations governing the Audit Bureau and has actually amended certain other provisions such as those on income tax, the landlords' and tenants' law and the traffic law.

Prime Minister Badran supported the recommendation of the NCC's financial and administrative committee that the Audit Bureau should have no authority over public shareholding companies in which the government is holding shares. This is because the bureau still lacks sufficient employees to carry out a job of this magnitude and because government policy permits these companies to run on a purely commercial basis.

The prime minister said that although cases of public fund embezzlement are exceptional, the government will deal firmly according to the law with any offenders.

The prime minister said the government is drawing up a strategy to cope with the surplus of agricultural production, and had for instance already incurred the high cost of buying the surplus tonato in order to prevent farmers from incurring losses.

Commenting on the trial of some Income Tax Department employees on bribery charges, Mr. Badran said the government is not indifferent to corruption, and the stiff sentences were announced in local newspapers as a deterrent to others.

Supply Ministry thanked

The prime minister thanked the Supply Ministry for its efforts in building warehouses throughout the country to satisfy the food requirements of all citizens and to keep at least a six-month reserve of foodstuffs in the country. The private sector could not have achieved this because it views the matter from a purely commercial perspective, he said.

Commenting on a request for material and moral support for Audit Bureau employees, Mr. Badran said the Audit Bureau workers are like other civil service employees and cannot enjoy extra material privileges. But, as far as moral support goes, he personally ensured that this was rendered every time a case came to the attention of the prime minister's office.

The Audit Bureau also needs moral support from all government departments, which should view the bureau as an institution helping government officials especially in the rectification of mistakes.

The military band of the armed forces take part in a parade held Sunday to commemorate the 15th anniversary of the Al Karamah battle (Petra photo)

Ceremony marks Karamah battle anniversary

AMMAN (Petra) — Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces Lt-Gen. Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker took part Sunday evening in a ceremony organised by the 12th Royal Mechanised Division and Yarmouk University on the 15th anniversary of the Al Karamah battle.

enemy and halt his advances.

Director of student affairs at Yarmouk University Abdullah Muwafiq also made a speech saying that the university's participation in the ceremony is an expression of gratitude to our soldiers who sacrificed so much for the sake of the homeland.

The ceremony included national songs, folk dances and music played by the armed forces and student musical bands.

University President Adnan Badran presented the university shield and insignia to the commander-in-chief. And at the end of the ceremony, the commander-in-chief handed over awards and gifts to the participants in the ceremony.

The commander of the division, a number of the division's officers, and the teaching staff at Yarmouk University attended the ceremony.

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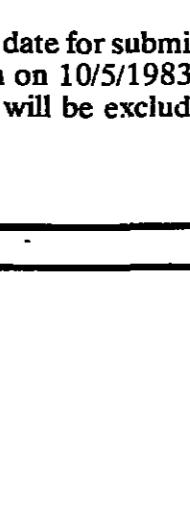
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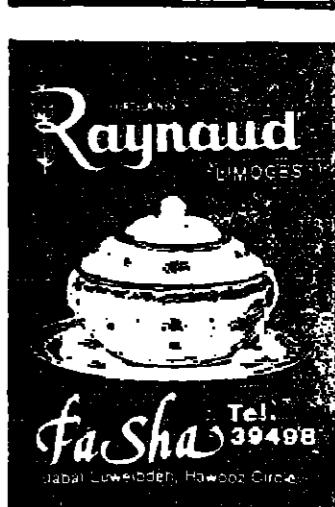
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The answer is nothing

If it were a question of flinging a statement at the Americans saying we Arabs are willing to negotiate peace with Israel, and then we will get the West Bank and Gaza back, Jordanians and Palestinians probably would not have hesitated about joining the U.S.-sponsored peace process until now. But, unfortunately, the issue is not as simple as that, and we are still wondering what it really takes — and how long — to pave the way for a peaceful settlement in the Middle East.

Seen from one perspective, the biggest single stumbling block to progress towards peace is not actually Israeli intransigence and vehement opposition to giving up the occupied Arab territories as much as it is American mishandling of collective U.S. and Israeli policies in this area. On the one hand, Washington knows, but yet has to accept, that for the Reagan Middle East initiative to survive, U.S. pressure has to be applied on Israel, in some form, but not through trying to extract more concessions from the Arabs who have very little left to concede in any case. On the other, the Reagan administration has to realize that Arab conditions for joining the peace process are, in our view and that of the international community, even more valid and legitimate than the U.S.' own conditions as outlined in President Reagan's proposals last September.

In those proposals, the president indirectly asked the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to sort of ignore its very existence and settle for more "acceptable" Palestinian representatives to peace talks. An outrageous proposition perhaps, but one that might not be totally unacceptable if indeed the Americans proved able to deliver Israel and the land. But, granted, only the PLO can answer this question, and we are yet to hear an answer.

Another U.S. condition was that Palestinian self-determination could only be determined to the extent with which the Americans and the Israelis were comfortable — even happy — thereafter. Fine, we said, provided there was a stronger chance of recovering the land, and more hope of peace and stability.

The president then ruled that not all Palestinian land actually belongs to Palestinians and that parts of it would have to be retained for Israeli "security" purposes and perhaps for building American golf courses as well. Okay, Arabs would also talk about this point, we reasoned, but the Israelis needed to freeze the building of Jewish settlements on the West Bank for any negotiations to be meaningful.

Seven months have passed since we last heard from the U.S. president and his administration. Sure they have been telling us that the U.S. is still waiting for a "yes" or "no" answer from us. But, by the same token, should we not ask what Americans have done with the Israelis?

Alas, one should not expect anything. The answer is nothing.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Hassan articulates urgent need

In his opening speech to the EEC Spring Festival in Amman, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan emphasised that "the Zionist enemy" is little effected by international denunciations and statements condemning illegal practices in the occupied Arab territories.

The Prince also stressed the significance of a firm stand by the international community in putting an end to such practices, and foiling the Begin government's plans aimed at subverting the rights and freedoms of the Palestinian people.

The Prince's request for a serious stand comes at a time when Israel's greed for the annexation of Arab territory, and lust for Arab blood has reached a phase that no ally of Israel can justify or conceal. Terrorist methods are applied in the occupied Arab territories to force Palestinians out of their homeland and to create suitable conditions for the implementation of settlement schemes. Hence, the recent crimes committed by Zionist settlers, with the support of the Israeli authorities, against peaceful Arab citizens in the Jenin area testify to the war of extermination which the Zionists are waging against the Arab people of Palestine.

Al Dustour: Festival — sign of closer links

In his inauguration speech to the European Community Spring Festival, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan referred to the political, cultural and economic ties that have long characterised the relations between the Arab World and the peoples of Europe.

The political events that have influenced the history of the Middle East have always had a great impact on European interests. The Arabs have always been the main victim of Israeli aggressions, but Europe has also suffered the consequences of Israel's aggressive policies and wars. The closure of the Suez Canal, the oil embargo, the closure of Arab air and sea ports in the face of European traffic and the loss of several Arab markets to the Europeans for a long duration have all made the Europeans the second victim of Israeli aggression.

The opening of the EEC Spring Festival in Amman is a good sign of improving relations between the Arab World and Europe, and this can be further promoted to meet the interests of the two continents.

Sawt Al Shaab: Vital Mideast meeting

THE Algiers Palestine National Council (PNC) decisions regarding Palestinian rights were quite clear, but the general attitude towards how peace in the Middle East should be achieved was not without several ambivalent aspects which need to be clarified. The PNC session regarded the Arab peace proposals adopted at Fez as a minimum formula that the Palestinian people would be prepared to adhere to. The establishment of a Palestinian state in the occupied Arab territories, and direct participation by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in any peace efforts in the region were considered indispensable prerequisites. Yet, the PNC did not tackle the issue of what means should be applied in order to reach such goals.

Historians probably will not record in any detail what happened on the morning of Friday, March 19, 1983 in an area just off Connecticut Avenue in Washington, D.C. But people who know what is really of historical significance will remember last Friday. It was the day that the two pandas in the Washington Zoo finally mated, or, as it would be written in more respectable journals, consummated their heretofore platonic relationship.

I am not entirely certain of the full historical significance of what happened in the panda enclosure at the National Zoo in Washington, D.C. last Friday. I suspect it is of great importance, if

only because the event took place in a city of politicians, at a time when the political establishment was pre-occupied with space wars, budget deficits, Latin American wars and the situation in the Middle East. The two pandas — Ling-Ling and Hsing-Hsing, their names denoting their status as a gift from the Chinese people — reminded that busy city of the real priorities of late winter.

Nor am I certain of how pandas mate, though, having seen horses, cats and housewives try their hand at this old ritual, I can imagine what the scene must have been like. I am happy to read that the event was filmed by a local television crew. If, for some reason,

all of the pandas of the world were to stop mating, I am satisfied that my children and their children after them will always be able to see a film of two pandas mating should the urge ever present itself.

The event is not as frivolous as many people would think it. For one thing, it has been somewhat awkward that the two pandas presented by China to the United States refused to mate in the National Zoo of Washington, D.C. — right under the nose of the American political establishment. While the expression of Chinese-American friendship was not necessarily contingent upon a successful union of the two gift pandas, there is certainly an important symbolic

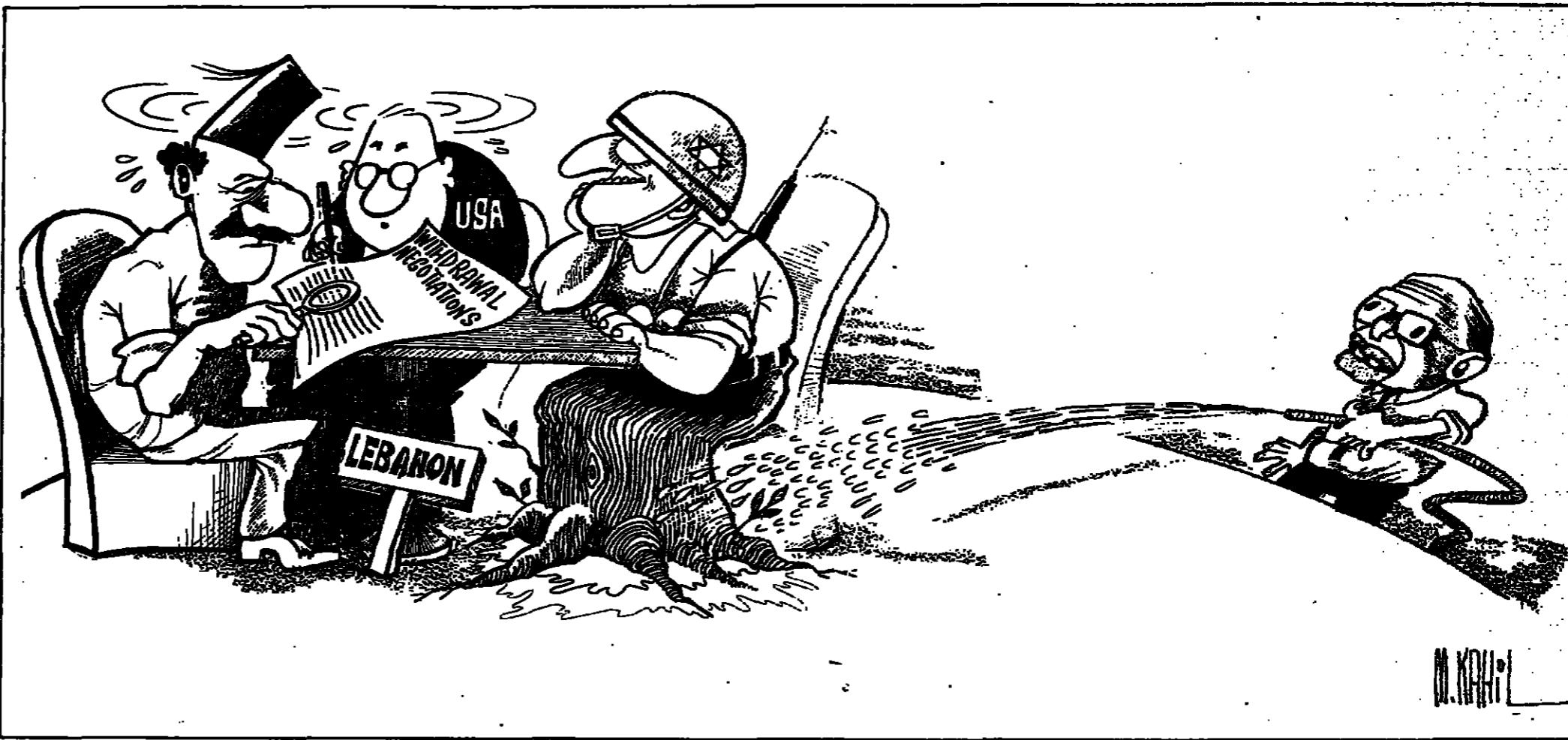
interpretation to the fact that Ling-Ling and Hsing-Hsing have finally completed, or at least attempted, the pivotal event in the natural cycle of a panda's life.

For another thing, the union of the pandas comes after a seven-year romantic drought. One is tempted to conclude that pandas, like ancient people of the bible, relate to cycles of seven good years and seven bad years. It is a proposition worth testing, when sufficient evidence becomes available.

The story is not over, however. because in the world of pandas it is not necessarily a procreative certainty simply to have gone through the mechanical act of union and

mating. I am told by those who know more about pandas than I do that a female panda must receive the offering of her male companion for the three consecutive days a year in which she is in heat. It is a lucky thing for the pandas that Ling-Ling was in heat in March, and not in August, given the rigours of procreation in the heat and humidity of a Washington summer.

It will require at least three months before the experts and the panda world know whether or not Ling-Ling is pregnant. If not, the whole thing will have to be repeated again next year. But I was pleased to learn that the people who run the National Zoo in Washington, D.C. have taken an interest. They flew in some pandas from the very popular panda in the London Zoo, a certain Chia-Chia. This one was introduced into Ling-Ling to help assure that she becomes pregnant this year. It is tempting, though perhaps impolite, to draw analogies between the male pandas and the political leaders of London or Washington, so I shall refrain from doing so. After all, there will be another time and another place to discuss politics. This month, the objective is to produce a baby panda in the National Zoo in Washington, D.C. Let us hope for success. The world could use a few more pandas.



Problems and hopes of the Israeli peace movement

Uri Avnery has pioneered the long, tortuous route towards achieving an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue. After serving as a member of Menachem Begin's former underground organisation, the Irgun, during the British Mandate, Avnery went on to establish and edit Israel's lively, largest-circulation weekly, Ha-Olam Ha-Zeh. In recent years, he has represented the vocal, left-wing Sheli party in the Knesset. After crossing the battle lines during the Israeli bombardment of Beirut in July, 1982, to interview PLO leader, Yasser Arafat, his numerous political opponents in Israel urged the passing of a law to punish his act of 'treachery'.

Avnery recently visited London to address, together with a leading Palestinian, Issam Sartawi, a public meeting which had been organised by 'The Campaign for Israeli-Palestinian Peace, a Jewish Initiative'. Barry Cohen, on behalf of Middle East International, spoke to him about the problems and hopes of the Israeli peace movement within the context of Israel's deepening social crisis.

The Israeli peace movement

"The Israeli peace movement consists, in the widest sense, of three concentric circles. The nucleus comprises all those people (including the pro-Moscow Communist party, Rakah) who unequivocally support a two-nation solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and recognise the PLO as the leadership of the Palestinian people.

A bigger circle is represented by the people who are ready for peace and speak of a political rather than military solution to the Palestinian problem. They will demonstrate against atrocities in Lebanon and repression in the occupied territories, but they will not speak publicly for a Palestinian state. The majority in Peace Now believe that to do so at this time could seriously split the movement.

Peace Now is a genuine grassroots movement. There is no formal structure. Its activities are generated by a fluctuating membership of 100 to 200 activists... The success of any demonstration depends completely on the people's mood at any particular moment. When I met Arafat in Beirut on July 3, I was boasting that 50,000 people would turn up to a peace rally in Tel Aviv later that day. In fact, 100,000 people actually demonstrated... The third largest circle comprises the 'Dovish' elements in Labour, Mapam and various smaller parties which

belong to the political establishment. They will not demonstrate without the approval of their party's leadership."

"On the first day of the war, we who immediately spoke out against it were a very small minority. By the end of the third week the Committee Against the War in Lebanon organised a demonstration. To my intense surprise, 20,000 people turned up. These mass demonstrations show how the small wheel had activated the larger wheels, and then took over large parts of the Labour Alignment. You must remember that the Labour party had not only supported the war but had called on the Israeli military to invade Lebanon one week before the war."

"At the September rally in Tel Aviv, which called on the government to appoint a commission of enquiry into the Sabra and Shatila massacres, 400,000 people attended, making it the largest political demonstration in Israel's history. All the opposition factors had come together. Then, you had great masses of Israelis who were morally very profoundly shaken by events. Official Labour and Mapam support made it possible to bring in busloads of demonstrators from the kibbutzim and outlying development towns."

Relations with the Palestinians

"When I was speaking in the Knesset in early 1981 about a Palestinian solution, Mr. Begin — who always treats me very correctly because I was once in the Irgun and a former member of the Irgun cannot exactly be a traitor, perhaps misguided — said to me: 'Mr. Avnery, out of 120 Knesset members, 110 are against what you are saying.' I replied: 'I am well aware of this fact but I'm also aware that one week before Mr. Sadat visited Jerusalem, 110 members would not have dreamed of giving back a single inch of the Sinai, not to speak of all of Sinai.'

You see, a single dramatic gesture by Sadat had an enormous influence on Israeli attitudes. When I met Arafat in Tunis on Jan. 18, I told him that the PLO can have a big influence on the Israeli peace movement by doing and saying positive things. Arafat has an acute grasp of the political situation within Israel and completely understood my argument."

"The resolutions of the Algiers conference fell very short of what must be done to achieve peace. However, due to their many historical traumas, the Palestinians believe that an internal consensus

based on organisational unity is mandatory for their political survival. As a result, the radical minority at Algiers were in a position to blackmail the conference from expressing more moderate resolutions on peace for fear of splitting the PLO."

"It is extremely difficult for Arafat to move forward when he is condemned by consensus. People in the West don't understand this dilemma. Sadat could do a 'Sadat' knowing that his government dominated Egypt's mass media while he was backed by the army and police."

"How long can the Palestinians support the moderate leadership that can't produce concrete results? Israeli contacts with the PLO began nine years ago when I met with the late Said Hamamni in London. Until now, there has not been a single word of encouragement from America which constantly proclaims its desire for peaceful solution to this conflict. All the opposition factors had come together. Then, you had great masses of Israelis who were morally very profoundly shaken by events. Official Labour and Mapam support made it possible to bring in busloads of demonstrators from the kibbutzim and outlying development towns."

Divisions within Israel

"Israel is rapidly changing in a way that is very dangerous. It is true that Israeli society is becoming more chauvinistic and, at the same time, the sephardic Jews are becoming a large majority. Optically, it may seem that these two developments coincide since the Sephardim are Begin's electoral back-bone and therefore constitute an anti-peace movement in Israel. I think we must distinguish between the two. The extreme right wing is still very much a minority. Given the prospect of real peace, the great majority will react positively as they did with Sadat."

The future

"The Palestinians don't have much time to lose because the Israeli government is very conscious of the time element and is using it to create facts in the territories which it thinks are irreversible."

"Contrary to appearances, the military in Israel is not chauvinistic. It is far more moderate than the political establishment. Why? Because the whole military structure is Ashkenazi. Indeed, the consensus of the generals is far more moderate than the consensus of members of parliament."

"Israel is a democracy but with qualifications. It is composed of layers like a cream torte. The first layer is Israeli Jewish. This compares quite favourably with Western democracies. In the next layer are the Israeli Arabs who have formal democratic rights but, in practice, they are not genuinely free. Their situation is bearable, even if it creates a lot of bitterness. Arabs in the occupied territories constitute the third layer. They live under the worst type of colonial regime with no political or human rights. In the meantime, they are exploited as cheap labour without any protection. Finally, there are the Jewish settlers with super-rights who are free to roam the territories and act as they wish. Although these fascist gangs are still a small minority, they are becoming more active."

"Unfortunately, the great majority of Sephardim are anti-Arab. How did this happen? The Sephardim of the exploited classes are becoming rapidly chauvinistic as a means of compensating for their general feeling of humiliation; it is a necessary factor in overcoming their identity crisis. They reason: 'I am despised by other Jews but I am, nevertheless, a member of a master race.'

"They have a basic hatred of the Labour movement (which they equate with the Ashkenazi ruling class) because of Labour's treatment of them during the early years of mass immigration. To a certain extent, they are treated badly, even if it was not done intentionally: They saw a white society which oppressed them. They hated the white social worker as much as they hated the white cop or judge or member of the Knesset. Mr. Begin is not less Polish than Mr. Peres. But the latter represents the establishment."

"We must make a conscious effort to understand and bridge the abyss between the peace movement in Israel and the mass of Orientals. I think these divisions are probably a greater danger than our war against the Palestinians. This is a time-bomb ticking away inside Israel. Now, some people in desperation are looking for a mechanical solution by putting President Navon, a Sephardi, in charge of the Labour party. But this is only a stop-gap measure. The fundamental problem remains: how to integrate the Sephardim into the basic structure of the nation. In the good old days, Israel's leaders thought they were going to create an Ashkenazi nation. This vision has not worked and there is never going to be an Ashkenazi nation. War is a solution to this problem because

"Sharon was and remains the pre-ordained spiritual leader of the right-wing forces. In fact, he is far more dangerous than previously. To some, he is a martyr. He is still in the cabinet and continues to influence political and military decisions."

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DP 11-15p

SPORTS

Holmes outclasses Rodriguez in triumphant 'homecoming'

SCRANTON, Pennsylvania (R) — Larry Holmes made a triumphant 'homecoming' Sunday when he outclassed a mismatched Lucien Rodriguez of France to retain his World Boxing Council heavyweight title.

Returning to the city where he began his professional career 10 years ago, the 33-year-old Holmes won every round in the 12-round match as he found Rodriguez, the European champion, an easy target throughout.

The 31-year-old Rodriguez fought courageously until the last few rounds, when he appeared content to try to survive the distance. He was floored once by a Holmes right upper cut in the sixth round but he bounced up quickly at the count of three before taking a mandatory eight-count.

The unbeaten Holmes, winning his 42nd fight, staggered Rodriguez on about a half dozen other occasions but was unable to put him down again. The World Boxing Council (WBC) champion, making his 14th successful title defence, peppered Rodriguez' face with dozens of snapping left jabs, a number of solid right-hand leads and numerous sharp combinations.

Rodriguez, ranked ninth by the WBC, rarely was able to land a blow, particularly in the early rounds. However, he connected with a solid left hook in the seventh round—his best round of the fight—and caught the champion with a good right-hand lead midway through the eighth round.

Rodriguez, who had won his last 12 fights, became the second straight challenger to go the distance against Holmes. In Holmes' last title defence he scored a one-sided 15-round decision over Randy 'Tex' Cobb in Houston last November 26. Like Rodriguez, Cobb did not win a round.

Sunday's bout marked the first

time that Holmes had defended his title over 12 rounds, in accordance with a relatively recent WBC edict reducing the title distance from 15 rounds.

A capacity crowd of 6,800 gave Holmes a rousing reception on his return to this former coal-mining centre where he made his professional debut almost exactly ten years ago, scoring a four-round decision over Roland Dupree.

Holmes received \$100 for that fight but after deductions took home only \$60 dollars.

By contrast Sunday he was expected to receive about \$500,000 for his first main event performance in Scranton, where he fought nine times before winning his title on June 9, 1978.

Rodriguez, who had not lost since being beaten by current World Boxing Association (WBA) champion Michael Dokes three years ago, was reported to be guaranteed \$200,000.

In coming back to Scranton, Holmes fulfilled an old dream of defending his championship against a club fighter in front of many fans who had supported him in his early professional days.

Holmes appeared to be bidding his time and able to dispatch Rodriguez whenever he chose. That moment appeared to be at hand in the sixth round when the American connected with three punishing left jabs and a right-hand lead before finally flooring the challenger with a right uppercut. It was the only knockdown of the fight.

Rodriguez finally began to score with some effective punches in the seventh and eighth rounds while counterpunching effectively.

He connected with three good right-hand leads and a solid left hook in the seventh and another right-hand lead in the eighth. But Holmes still had the upper hand in both rounds.

Throughout the rest of the fight



Heavyweight champion Larry Holmes (right) and European heavyweight champion Lucien Rodriguez trade lefts to the head during their WBC bout in Scranton on Sunday. (A.P. wirephoto)

balance.

This pattern continued through the first six rounds as Holmes, fighting in spurts, had little trouble landing a variety of punches while Rodriguez was rarely able to get in a blow.

Holmes was so dominant that in the fifth round he let out a Tarzan-like yell and then dropped his gloves to his side, inviting Rodriguez to try to land a punch.

Instead, the challenger danced away.

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Throughout the rest of the fight

Rodriguez was unable to land a telling punch.

Over the last four rounds Holmes stalked the Frenchman around the ring, apparently trying to set him up for a knockout. Rodriguez, though far behind in the scoring, continued to move away, seemingly content to try to last the 12 rounds.

In the 10th and 11th rounds the crowd booted several times, apparently because of the evasive tactics of the challenger, who had weighed in at 207 pounds for the match.

Holmes later paid tribute to Rodriguez, who along with Cobb and Trevor Berbick of Canada are the only fighters to have gone the distance with the champion.

"He's a durable fighter and takes punches well," Holmes said. "I hit him with some good shots and he still stood up. I was trying to knock him out, but when you try to knock someone out you have a tendency to tighten up. I let him off the hook. When I had him hurt, he fought back."

Holmes conceded he was not in top form. "I wasn't 100 per cent ready because the fight was moved from April 10 to today. That meant a crash training programme."

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Watson wins Long Beach Grand Prix

LONG BEACH (R) — John Watson of Northern Ireland made racing history when he roared through the field in his McLaren car from 22nd position on the starting grid to win the Formula One Long Beach Grand Prix.

And, in an amazing one-two finish that had the estimated crowd of 75,000 on its feet shouting and screaming Sunday, Watson's teammate, former world champion Niki Lauda, came from 23rd position to finish second.

According to the record books, no one had ever come from further back than 17th starting position to win a Grand Prix race. Watson, 36, did it in Detroit last year and Scotland's Jackie Stewart came from 17th position to win the South African Grand Prix in 1971.

A jubilant Watson said after the race: "Coming from behind was nothing I had planned in advance. I had to pass everybody. I would sooner start in the front."

"I took a gamble on using the same type of tyres I raced on in Detroit and it worked," he said.

While France's Patrick Tam-

bay, who had started in pole position in his Ferrari on the two-abreast starting grid, was trying to hold off "Flying Finn" Keke Rosberg, Watson and his Austrian teammate steadily made their way up through the field of 26 starters.

Driving in textbook style, not putting a wheel wrong, Watson, who lost the 1982 World Championship to Rosberg in the final race of the season, had moved into the top 20 by the 8th lap and into the top 10 by the 25th lap.

It was in the 25th lap that the race was probably decided. Rosberg tried to squeeze his Williams past Tambay on the inside of the Queen's Hairpin bend on the tight, twisting street track. He struck Tambay's car, sending it spinning with its right wheels in the air.

The car stalled across the track—and the Frenchman was out of the race.

As Rosberg tried to slide round Tambay, Jean-Pierre Jarier of France, charging through his Ligier, hit the rear of Rosberg's car, ending the race for the world champion.

Asked why he and Lauda had started so far back, Watson said: "In qualifying we lacked tyre temperature. The problem had Michelin as bewildered as we were."

"When Tambay and Rosberg collided, it made life easier for

us," he added.

While all eyes were on the McLaren pair, former World Champion Alan Jones was making his comeback from retirement in his Arrows car.

"I didn't know at first I was in front," Watson said. "It came as a bit of a surprise."

Lauda, whom Watson had passed on the 27th lap, rode as rear guard for the Irishman on the dying stages of the 75-lap race. While Watson steadily pulled ahead to finish with a 28-second advantage over his teammate.

"I think Niki had leg cramps at the end and so there was no point in his challenging me," Watson said.

"He didn't exactly invite me to pass him. But we are both old and gentlemen. We don't exactly push each other off the road."

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WORLD

Bomb goes off despite Assam ceasefire

NEW DELHI (R) — A bomb exploded overnight in the Assam capital of Gauhati as militant leaders there announced a temporary suspension of their anti-immigrant campaign and political chiefs issued a fresh appeal for peace.

The Press Trust of India (PTI) news agency said a powerful bomb went off in the garden of a state government official hours after militants announced a full in their agitation.

The bomb, the latest in a series of blasts across Assam in the past two weeks, caused only minor damage and no casualties.

PTI quoted leaders from nine

political parties in the troubled northeast Indian state as issuing a joint appeal for an all-out effort to restore peace and harmony.

About 3,000 people died and more than 250,000 were made homeless when violence flared last month in the oil-producing state during local elections which gave Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's Congress (I) Party a two-thirds majority.

The leaders included representatives from the Congress, communist, left-wing and tribal parties who met Assam Chief Minister Hiteshwar Saikia Sunday to

discuss rehabilitation measures being taken by the government.

PTI said the government had set up a special state-level relief committee to oversee aid and rehabilitation measures for the thousands of villagers made homeless in the bloodshed.

Assam Governor Prakash Mehrotra said the situation in the hilly Brahmaputra Valley state was gradually improving and many people had already started returning to their villages from relief camps.

The decision was taken by the leaders of the two hardline groupings of ethnic Assamese Hindus spearheading the campaign — the

all-Assam students' union and the all-Assam Gana Sangram Parishad or People's Revolutionary Front.

But they said they would continue their non-cooperation with Mr. Saikia's government, which they say was elected by immigrant votes, and called on the public to boycott Mrs. Gandhi's meetings when she visits the fertile, rice-growing valley on Wednesday.

They said Wednesday would be observed as a day of mourning for those killed and black flags would be hoisted at meetings addressed by the prime minister.

Lesotho claims attack by S. Africa

JOHANNESBURG (R) — South Africa's neighbour Lesotho has said an armed group from the white-ruled republic lost about 20 dead or wounded in an attack on a paramilitary barracks on their joint border.

The kingdom's police and paramilitary force said Sunday that a South African Defence Force major led the six-hour attack on the barracks at Ongelukseun border post in southern Lesotho on Saturday.

A joint statement also referred to the arrests of an unspecified number of South African police in a series of border incidents at the weekend.

South Africa's External Affairs Director-General Hans van Dalen said he knew nothing of the

matter, while a police spokesman in Pretoria dismissed the charges as a "fairy tale." The Defence Force declined comment.

The Lesotho foreign ministry said on Saturday it had lodged a strong protest with Pretoria, alleging an act of provocation and unwarranted aggression.

Lesotho also charged Sunday that further incidents included a grenade attack on a Roman Catholic mission at Piseng near its northern border with South Africa in which a paramilitary force member died and the capture of six of 10 alleged saboteurs said to have tried to blow up a Maseru power plant.

Earlier this month South Africa rejected charges by Lesotho that it had information about an imminent

attack on the mountain kingdom by men said to be connected with the Defence Force.

Lesotho is still smarting from the aftermath of a South African commando raid on its capital December in which more than 40 people died.

Pretoria said then it acted to head off planned sabotage and assassination raids on South Africa by Maseru-based guerrillas of the banned African National Congress (ANC).

Strict secrecy meanwhile shrouded the whereabouts of the ousted Prime Minister of Swaziland, Prince Mambanda Fred Dlamini, whose surprise arrival in South Africa was announced by Foreign Minister Roelof "Pik" Botha on Saturday.

S. African ambassador's remarks upset Canberra

CANBERRA (R) — Australian Foreign Minister Bill Hayden said South African Ambassador Denis Worrall was summoned to the foreign ministry Monday because he made comments that went beyond acceptable limits.

Mr. Hayden said in a statement Dr. Worrall had been called in because of remarks he made last week at a meeting of apex clubs saying Australian policy towards South Africa was "confrontational, prescriptive and intrusive."

Dr. Worrall had told the meeting Australia would apparently be satisfied only with black majority rule in South Africa. Mr. Hayden asked for a copy of his speech which as reported in local newspapers as an attack on the newly-elected labour government.

Mr. Hayden said Monday foreign diplomatic representatives were encouraged to present their governments' views in Australia. "However, it is not appropriate that they should publicly criticise the policies of the Australian government," he said.

Disgruntled Greens to take German Bundestag by storm

BONN (R) — West Germany's radical "Greens" angreed over their seat allocations in the Bundestag (lower house), seen set for a stormy parliamentary session Tuesday when they go into the chamber bearing flowers and peace banners.

The Greens, who won 27 seats in the March 6 elections, have threatened to stand in protest in the middle of the chamber when the new Bundestag meets to elect Conservative chancellor Helmut Kohl at its first sitting.

They demand their brass nameplates be removed from seats allotted on the far left of the chamber

and screwed to benches in the middle between Mr. Kohl's Christian Democrats (CDU) and the opposition Social Democrats (SPD).

Some right-wing politicians see the Greens' theatrical opening as a first, tentative challenge to Bonn's 33-year-old democracy. They fear an attempt to bring the rowdiness of street demonstrations to the country's highest democratic body.

The plan has also added fuel to a debate over whether the loose amalgam of leftists, anti-nuclear activists and pacifists should be banned altogether.

Right gains in Geneva polls

GENEVA (R) — The voters of Switzerland's most left-wing city, have shown a clear shift to the right in elections to the local parliament.

In the vote Sunday, widely seen as foreshadowing national elections later this year, the "vanguard" party, which campaigned on an anti-immigrant platform, almost doubled its representation.

The party, which opposes the large number of refugees and highly-paid foreign diplomats in Geneva, emerged from the election with 13 seats in Parliament, compared with its previous seven.

It is now the third largest party. The Communist "party of work" was left with 10 seats after losing five, and the Socialist Party retained 17 after losing one. The parties of the left have not been so weak for decades in Geneva, which recently had a communist Mayor.

Sunday's vote was in line with a continuing rightward drift in local and regional Swiss elections over the past two years.

Concern about unemployment has caused mounting hostility towards Switzerland's large foreign labour force.

Calvi's family tries to clear his name

LONDON (R) — The family of Italian banker Roberto Calvi, who was found hanging under a London bridge last June, launched a court appeal Monday against a British inquest verdict that he committed suicide.

George Carman, the Calvi family lawyer, told three high court judges that the London inquest last July in which a jury returned a majority verdict of suicide had been rushed.

He said the family believed the 62-year-old Calvi had been murdered and urged the judges to quash the verdict and order a fresh inquest.

Mr. Carman said there were irregularities in the way the inquest had been conducted. "Since that time, there has come to light fresh evidence of a significant and material nature which calls into question even more the correctness, let alone the safety, of the verdict," he added.

Mr. Carman said Calvi's widow Clara, and her son and daughter, had flown from the United States to attend the high court hearing.

"The suicide verdict constitutes for them, as Catholics, a grave moral stigma and they entertain the belief that he met his death at the hands of others," he added.

Fortunately, declarer was alert enough to realize that the spade suit actually offered two chances to make the hand — his contract was safe either if West held the queen or East held the ace of spades!

Declarer won the first trick with the ace of clubs — this was not the time for a holdup, because declarer could not afford to have the defenders shift to a diamond. After extracting two trumps in two rounds, ending in his hand, declarer then led a low spade toward the jack. Had East held the queen, declarer would have had to fall back on leading a spade to the king for his contract. As it was, West won the queen of spades and shifted to a diamond, but too late. Declarer won and led another low spade. East was forced to win the ace. But now declarer could win the diamond return and discard dummy's remaining diamond on the king of spades. So the defenders had to be satisfied with two spade tricks and a club.

West led the queen of clubs, and declarer had mixed emotions about his dummy. There seemed to be a sure loser in each minor suit. Therefore, it appeared that declarer had to be satisfied with two spade tricks and a club.

Declarer became the voice of the British Foreign Office in the House of Commons when Mrs. Thatcher came to power in 1979 and chose her Foreign Secretary Lord Carrington, a nobleman ineligible to speak in the lower chamber of Parliament.

Sir Ian, a tall, rich aristocrat, had spoken in his budget speech last week about laying the foundations for sustainable jobs and economic recovery. Sir Ian noted during a Parliamentary debate.

Sir Ian's inclination to stray beyond his brief and speak out on economic issues — in a direction that did not accord with Mrs. Thatcher's tight-money strategy — led to his dismissal from the cabinet in September 1981.

A liberal intellectual in the

Time confirms Bulgarian exile's story about Pope

NEW YORK (R) — Time magazine says it has found evidence to confirm a newspaper report that a Bulgarian embassy worker in Paris who defected in 1981 told French authorities the Soviet KGB had ordered Pope John Paul II killed.

In its latest edition, published Sunday, Time said it had uncovered a new "fragment" of evidence which did not answer the question whether the Soviet Union, acting through Bulgaria, was behind the May 1981 attack

Time said it had corroborated the newspaper's account although it did not say how.

Walesa, friends carry rosary made of prison bread

GDANSK, Poland (R) — Lech Walesa, who led the now-banned independent trade union Solidarity, walked in a church procession Sunday carrying a charred wooden cross adorned with a rosary made by jailed colleagues from prison bread.

Some 2,000 people, including many former union members, took part in the traditional Palm Sunday mass in and around St. Brigid's Roman Catholic church near Gdansk's giant Lenin shipyard, where Solidarity was born in August 1980.

Priest Henryk Jankowski led prayers for a general amnesty and the release of jailed Solidarity

activists. A former Solidarity official prayed for revival of the union, suspended under martial law in December 1981 and dissolved last October.

The procession was confined to the church and its precincts. There was no move towards a giant monument of three steel crosses outside the Shipyard main gate that has been the scene of past clashes between pro-Solidarity demonstrators and police.

Church sources said the small, blackened cross carried by Mr. Walesa had been hanging on the monument when it was doused with petrol and set alight after riot

Time links U.S. envoy in Honduras to FDN

NEW YORK (R) — Time magazine has reported that a team of Americans, including the U.S. ambassador to Honduras, John Negroponte, is masterminding insurgency in Nicaragua.

The magazine, in its April 4 issue, said its report was based on information from the rebels themselves, the Nicaraguan Democratic Forces (FDN).

The FDN, an alliance of guerrillas opposed to Nicaragua's leftist Sandinista government, is reported to operate from sanctuaries across the border in Honduras.

Citing FDN sources, Time outlined the command structure of the rebels.

At the top is a "political coordinating committee" made up largely of conservative and moderate Nicaraguans who have fled their country during the last three years, it said.

Behind the coordinating committee are three military general staffs — the first is Nicaraguan,

the second is largely Honduran military, and the third is an "all-American body" which is the brains of the insurgency, Time said.

The third general staff is, by the FDN accounts, an all-American body," Time said. "It is composed of CIA (Central Intelligence Agency) experts and representatives of the U.S. army's southern command, based in Panama.

The report continued: "This third command is allegedly the brains of the insurgency. Its job is to pass orders to the second staff, which, in turn, relays them to the Contra (rebel) commanders."

The coordinator of the three commands' activities, according to Time, is said by the FDN sources to be John Negroponte, U.S. ambassador to Honduras."

But the magazine also quoted one Western diplomat as saying Mr. Negroponte's job was to keep the Hondurans involved in the rebel movement.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Britain's alliance back in 3rd place

LONDON (R) — The volatile popularity of Britain's Liberal-Social Democrat Alliance has suffered another sharp fall, according to an opinion survey broadcast Monday. Barely 10 days ago, pollsters reported that the centrist alliance, linking the Labour Party defectors of the Social Democrats with the perennially third-place Liberals, had bounced upwards in voter preference. Several surveys then showed the Alliance, which hopes to break the two-party pattern of British politics, in second place, ahead of the Labour opposition and behind Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's Conservatives. But the latest poll, taken for independent television, put the alliance firmly back into third place.

Charlton Heston to act with Egyptian

BAHRAIN (R) — The World Islamic League is to make a film starring U.S. actor Charlton Heston and Egyptian actress Suad Hosni about the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. The film will be produced by Abdullah Al Sabah of Morocco, the agency said.

Tourist lodge near Etna evacuated

CATANIA, Sicily (R) — Authorities ordered evacuation of a viewing lodge used by tourists when a new crater erupted on Mount Etna Monday. The civil protection service in Catania declared an alert and pull rescue teams from a new crack in the crust of Europe's largest active volcano. Authorities said there was no immediate danger. The viewing lodge closed down is about 1,900 metres up the mountainside facing Catania.

State of Andropov's kidney discovered

NEW YORK (R) — Newsweek magazine has reported that Soviet Leader Yuri Andropov had a bad kidney that required periodic treatment. The magazine, in its April 4 issue, quoted what it called a Soviet medical source for Mr. Andropov's condition. It also said Western diplomats in Moscow suggested his kidney trouble was due to diabetes, which also affected his heart, liver and eyesight.

Agnes Ng was sexually assaulted and suffocated. Her body was found in a brown canvas bag at the foot of an apartment block.

The couple pleaded guilty to killing the children. But the court rejected the admission and ordered the trial to continue. Also on

Anita and Albert a danger to traffic

AARAU, Switzerland (R) — A road trailer painted by a local artist with the picture of a reclining pair of lovers has been banned as a danger to traffic. On one side lay a woman with the inscription "Anita is thinking of Albert." On the other side was a man with the words "Albert is thinking of Anita." Local authorities decided that this Swiss version of "trick art," which is popular in the United States, was a distraction for other traffic and refused it a road licence. The owner has meanwhile repainted it grey all over and it is back on the road.

Malaysia strict about drug laws

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — Malaysia will not bow to political or outside pressure in enforcing anti-drug laws, which impose a mandatory death penalty on any one found with 15 grams of heroin. Deputy Prime Minister Muhsin Hizam said Monday. For citizens found in possession of drugs or trafficking would not escape the amended legislation recently approved by Parliament, he told reporters. "We will prosecute everyone equally without taking into account creed, religion or colour, if the person is found flouting the drug laws."

British Conservative old hand loves to hate his own side

By Barry May
Reuter

LONDON — The British government's latest budget has drawn its fiercest criticism from the parliamentary ranks of the ruling Conservative Party.

The outspoken critic is Sir Ian Gilmour, long a thorn in the side of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's administration.

Sir Ian, a tall, rich aristocrat, became the voice of the British Foreign Office in the House of Commons when Mrs. Thatcher came to power in 1979 and chose her Foreign Secretary Lord Carrington, a nobleman ineligible to speak in the lower chamber of Parliament.

Sir Ian's inclination to stray beyond his brief and speak out on economic issues — in a direction that did not accord with Mrs. Thatcher's tight-money strategy — led to his dismissal from the cabinet in September 1981.

Instead of allowing unemployment to rise or to continue at its same "astronomic height" the chancellor should have started to rebuild the economy, he said.

"Instead of that, he has merely gone on tinkering with the foundations."

The chancellor, invited to respond to the criticism in a radio interview, said:

"We have had tremendous suc-

cess against inflation in a very difficult time."

"We are now seeing clear signs of economic growth in the year ahead and we are able to see those signs on firm foundations."

"We are on course, even if he isn't."

The fiercest critic

Sir Ian's jibes at the government are not the only ones from within the ranks of the Conservative Party. But he is its most eminent critic and the most relentless.

His assault in the House of Commons follows the recent publication of his latest book, in which he argues for the total reversal of the government's economic policies.

The book, "Britain Can Work," presents the traditional but now unfashionable strain of Conservative thought on economics and politics.

"It appeals